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ISLE OF WIGHT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

FOR THE YEAR 1969

With the Compliments

of

DR. DOUGLAS QUANTRILL

Medical Officer of Health

Isle of Wight

County Hall,
Newport, I.W.

Telephone
Newport 4031

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ISLE OF WIGHT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT

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THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

FOR THE YEAR 1969

County Hall,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.

Tel: Newport 4031

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

This report, for the year 1969, is written on behalf of Dr. Alison Batten, who was your Medical Officer of Health during the period.

The population of the district for the first time on record, exceded 20,000. Twenty years ago, in 1949, the population was 17,580 and ten years later in 1959 it was slightly less (17,500). During the next ten years it then rose to the latest figure which was 20,040. This increase was due mainly to an influx of people from other areas as the birth rate has changed very little over the years. In 1969, there were 240 births and the rate (12.4) was, if anything, slightly lower than in recent years.

There were three infant deaths and a total number of deaths of 335. The comparable death rate (11.4) varied only very slightly from the national rate (11.9).

Infectious diseases were not a serious problem during the year. There was, during the winter months, an outbreak of influenza, which was not unduly virulent, but it did cause an unusual amount of absenteeism from work for a week or two. In the past, this has been a difficult disease to control, but progress has been made with the development of a safe and effective vaccine with which we hope it will be possible to keep the disease within reasonable limits in future.

One case of typhoid fever was reported during the summer. The infection was acquired by a resident of the district while on holiday abroad. All known contacts were followed up, the patient was isolated and successfully treated. There were no other cases. The more fortunate aspects of this case, were firstly that the doctor attending the patient suspected the disease at a very early stage and secondly, there was a high standard of hygiene in the patient's home.

As in previous years, two Public Health Inspectors combined their duties with those of district surveyors and could devote only a limited amount of time to health matters. The important tasks of inspection of hotels, holiday camps, food shops and cafes, etc., were therefore given insufficient attention. Furthermore, no inspections were made in accordance with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. The Council

however, decided to rectify this state of affairs and it was agreed to appoint a full time additional public health inspector who would give special attention to this important aspect of public health, particularly food hygiene. The majority of business people in the food and catering trade are willing to co-operate but the occasional incident of reluctance to comply may necessitate prosecution.

In conclusion, I should record how much Dr. Batten appreciated working for this council. I know that she always enjoyed the co-operation and consideration of both councillors and officials.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Quantock

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1969

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Alison M. Batten, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

C.V. Smith, M.R.S.H., M.A.R.D.C.S. - West Wight

R.J. Nichols, F.I.A.S., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H. - East Wight

TEMPORARY ASSISTANT SURVEYOR

W.I.J. Barber

CLERK

Miss R. Harding

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's figures)	20,040
Area (in acres)	58,127
Number of habitable dwellings end of 1969	8,595
Rateable Value, as at 1st April, 1969	£740,824
Sum represented by a penny rate (1968/69)	£2,995

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.4
Comparative factor	1.31
Comparative Birth Rate	16.2
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	19.8
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16.7
Comparative factor	0.68
Comparative Death Rate	11.4
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	Nil
Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-	
All infants per 1,000 live births	12.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	13.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	55

BIRTHS

The total number of live births was 248 of which 219 were legitimate and 29 illegitimate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The total number of deaths was 335 which gives a comparative death rate of 11.4 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population; the death rate for England and Wales being 11.9.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
Meningococcal infection	1	-
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	3	2
" " - Lung, bronchus, larynx & oesophagus	13	2
" " - breast	-	5
" " - uterus	-	2
" " - other	7	21
Leukaemia	2	-
Diabetes mellitus	-	2
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	1	1
Coronary disease, angina	47	30
Other forms of heart disease	13	34
Cerebrovascular disease	33	35
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	10
Influenza	3	1
Pneumonia	5	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	14	3
Other respiratory diseases	2	-
Peptic ulcer	4	1
Diseases of digestive system	3	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1
Congenital anomalies	1	-
Causes of perinatal mortality	1	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	4	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	-
All causes	169	166

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR, 1969

Age	Acute Meningitis	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Typhoid Fever	Pulmonary Tuber-culosis
Under 1 year	2	-	3	-	-
1 and under 2 years	-	-	1	-	-
2 " " 3 "	-	-	7	-	-
3 " " 4 "	-	-	6	-	-
4 " " 5 "	-	1	5	-	-
5 " " 10 "	-	-	55	-	-
10 " " 15 "	-	-	1	-	-
15 " " 25 "	-	-	-	-	-
25 " " 35 "	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " 45 "	-	-	-	1	-
45 " " 65 "	-	-	1	-	1
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	2	1	79	1	2

All other notifiable diseases ... ... Nil

EAST WIGHT

WATER SUPPLIES

The substantial majority of properties are served by a mains water supply for which the I.W. River and Water Authority are the responsibility authority for supplies throughout the Isle of Wight.

Samples of mains water taken proved to be satisfactory.

There are a few isolated dwellings not yet served by mains water but it is understood that schemes are under consideration to bring most of these properties on to a mains supply in the reasonably near future. The scheme for Roud and outlying parts of Whitwell is expected to be completed during 1970.

A number of water samples were taken from private supplies serving dwellings and these proved satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

No new conveniences have been provided during the year. The existing facilities are Bembridge (3), Brading, Niton and Godshill.

In addition to the conveniences owned by the Council, arrangements have continued with the respective owners for the public to have the use of the conveniences at The Buddle Inn, Niton, and Castlehaven Caravan Site, Niton.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Main sewerage systems are in operation in the villages of Apse Heath, Brading, Bembridge, Blackgang, Chillerton, Godshill, Niton and Whitwell.

Disposal works

Apse Heath: Inland plant with percolation filter.

Bembridge: Sea outfall.

The scheme prepared by the Council's consultants to increase the holder storage tanks, instal cominuters and extend the sea outfall has been approved by the Ministry, and the work has begun.

Brading: Inland works with percolating filter.

The improvement and enlargement of these works was completed in 1968.

Blackgang: Inland works with percolating filter.

Chillerton: Inland works, incorporating storage tanks and land irrigation.

Godshill: Inland works with percolating filter.

Niton and Whitwell: Inland works with percolating filter.

A new scheme is being prepared by the Council's consultants for submission to the Ministry and provides for the reconstruction and enlargement of the existing disposal works and renewal and extension of the public sewers serving Niton and Whitwell.

Safety in sewers and at sewage works

The sewerage workers employed by the Council were advised of the contents of Ministry circular 46/63, and provided with handbooks giving detailed precautions to be observed at all times. The necessary safety equipment was purchased and installed, and brought up to date where required, throughout the district.

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

The Council having decided to place the responsibility for refuse collection for both areas under the control of one man, has continued to provide a weekly collection of refuse throughout the whole of the Rural District. This service is supplemented by frequent special collections of bulky refuse in order to comply with the requirements of the Civic Amenities Act.

Satisfactory arrangements for the destruction and disposal of derelict cars by arrangement with a local scrap dealer also operates satisfactorily.

All refuse and scrap collected is taken to the centralised tip at Bleakdown, which is a controlled tip, with the exception of refuse from Bembridge and Brading area, which is taken to the small controlled tip at Brading.

Vehicles	Mileage
Bembridge and Brading (S & D 35 cub. yd. Pakamatic)	4,334
Arreton, Newchurch, part Godshill (S & D 20 cub. yd. Pakamatic)	8,782
Niton, Chale, Gatcombe, part Godshill (S & D 20 cub. yd. Pakamatic)	8,801
Agricultural parishes, West Wight (S & D 20 cub. yd. Pakamatic)	13,453
Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth	
(S & D 35 cub. yd. Pakamatic)	10,266
(" 25 " " ")	17,494
(" 20 " " ")	
(new vehicle from June, 1969)	4,897

LITTER BASKETS

Additional litter baskets have been installed during the year and the regular emptying of these is carried out by the Council's staff.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The Council operates its own service with one 1400 gallon vehicle.

Total number of cesspools emptied:	751
plus	121 for Newport Borough Council

HOSTELS

W.H.A. Hostel, Whitwell	Mains water, drainage to cesspool, weekly refuse collection

HOUSING

East and West Wight

Slum Clearance

No. of unfit houses demolished)	
No. of unfit houses closed)	Nil
No. of families rehoused)	

Assisted house purchase and loans to carry out repairs

During 1969 loans were made in respect of the purchase, construction, repair, improvement or alteration of 28 properties.

The total amount paid in this respect as £48,355.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT

No. of licensed caravan sites	8

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES FOR THE SALE OF ICE CREAM

East and West Wight

No. of premises registered	150

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

No. of licensed premises 3

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

	No. of premises registered	No. of persons employed
Offices	22	88
Retail shops	53	168
Wholesale shops and warehouses	-	-
Catering establishments	21	144
Fuel storage depots	-	-

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Total number of visits of inspection made 1828

Houses inspected	50
Houses re-inspected	24
Cowstables and dairies	-
Food preparing premises	26
Meat and other foods inspection	32
Drains and sewers	280
Water supplies	8
Refuse collection	207
Various	236
New buildings and alterations	965

plus 986 visits made by Mr. Jefferies, Clerk of Works, acting as Asst. Building Inspector.

FACTORIES ACT, 1957

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1957, Parts I & VIII administered by the District Council:-

Inspections
(for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	8	-	-

	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	13	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found
(If defects are discovered on the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they are reckoned as two, three or more cases)

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	4	4
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective (Sec. 7)	1	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Unsound food dealt with during the year - Contents of defective deep freeze at 3 food stores.

WEST WIGHT

WATER SUPPLIES

The rainfall for the year was 33.68 inches, and the average water consumption for the West Wight area was 677,000 gallons per day.

68 samples of water supplies were examined for bacteriological analysis, of which 92.6% were classified as satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public Conveniences are provided at Freshwater Bay, Freshwater (2), Totland, Totland Bay, Colwell Bay, Bridge Road, Yarmouth, opposite Yarmouth Common, and at Alum Bay (by arrangement with the Needles Hotel). All these conveniences are maintained by one full-time attendant.

Public Conveniences (chemical disposal type) are provided at Compton Bay. These are maintained by a part-time attendant.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Main sewerage systems are provided at Freshwater, Totland, Colwell Bay, Yarmouth, Shorwell, Brighstone and Calbourne.

Disposal of sewage

Freshwater	18" dia. sea outfall at Norton, extending 700 feet out from shore (including Monks area).
Yarmouth	Sea outfall discharging 500 feet from shore near end of Yarmouth Per.
	6" dia. sea outfall taking the discharge of 4 dwellings at the top of the High Street.
Totland	12" dia. sea outfall extending approximately 1000 feet out from shore.
Shorwell	To sewage disposal works with purification by settlement tanks and aeration beds.
Brighstone	do.
Calbourne	do.
Bouldnor area (Shalfleet Parish)	do.
Brook (former 'Estate' sewer)	By settlement tank (anaerobic treatment)
Newtown (Old Vicarage Estate)	To sewage disposal works with purification by settlement tanks and aeration beds.

Small sewage purification plants

There is a small sewage purification plant in Shalfleet Village taking the drainage of some 20 Council houses and private properties.

Small sewage purification plants are provided at Porchfield, Thorley, and Newbridge Housing Estates, and there is a small sewage plant at Alum Bay dealing with the drainage of the Public Conveniences, the Needles Hotel and Tea Rooms.

No major sewerage schemes have been carried out during the year due in part to the Government's directions on the restriction on capital expenditure.

Further survey work has been done on the improvements required to the sewerage systems serving the parishes of Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth. Fortunately, the sewer sea outfalls at Totland and Norton (Freshwater) have not suffered further damage but cause continuous anxiety as these cast iron pipes laid in the Solent are seventy years old.

In Yarmouth there is recurring trouble with the sewers near the new outfall. These sewers are surcharged with sea water over a long period resulting in a chilling of the sewage and the depositing of fats in the old pipes and manholes.

Brighstone Village sewerage treatment system is overloaded.

Brook Village disposal system is obsolete and it is not possible to provide adequate and satisfactory public toilets for the use of the many hundreds of visitors frequenting Compton Bay and Brooke Bay until a modern sewage treatment works is provided.

The Council has considered proposals for the development of Cranmore and the possibility of discharging the sewage into the proposed scheme for the villages of Shalfleet and Newbridge. No reasonable expansion of these villages can take place without a satisfactory sewerage system. Owners of new property with septic tank drainage will be reluctant to incur additional expense in connecting to a main sewerage scheme when it is eventually provided.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

Total number of cesspools or septic tanks cleansed	363

HOSTELS

Weston Manor, Totland	Mains water supply. Main drainage. Weekly collection of refuse.

HOUSING

East and West Wight

No. of new dwellings erected by the Council during the year	8
No. of private houses erected	298
No. of plans deposited and reported upon by the Council	636

Improvement Grants - The Rural District Council continued their policy of making improvement grants and during the year 33 properties were improved under this scheme.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT

No. of caravan sites licensed in the West Wight 8

There are no permanent residential caravan sites and only in very exceptional cases is there any room on a licensed site for the holiday maker with his own touring caravan.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

No. of licensed premises 2

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

	No. of premises registered	No. of persons employed
Offices	30	112
Retail shops	71	277
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-
Catering establishments	31	235
Fuel storage depots	1	4

There is no staff available to undertake routine inspections but no complaints have been received and visits have been restricted to enquiries into the causes of one or two minor accidents. The Council has decided to appoint an additional Public Health Inspector to exercise more careful observance of the requirements of this Act.

Where plans are submitted for new premises or alterations to existing buildings the attention of the developer is drawn to the requirements of the Act.

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Total number of visits of inspection made 2264

Houses inspected	95	
Houses re-inspected	120	
Cowstables and dairies	5	
Food preparation premises	36	
Meat and other foods inspection	20	
Drains and sewers	450	
Water supplies	6	
Refuse collection	12	
Various	300	
New buildings and alterations	1200	(including visits made by Mr. Jefferies, acting as Asst. Building Inspector, and Mr. Barber, temporary Asst. Building Inspector)

FACTORIES ACT

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council -

Inspections (Part I of the Act)
(For purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

	No.on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	52	6	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority		-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found
(If defects are discovered on the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they are reckoned as two, three or more cases)

	Number of cases in which defects were found	
	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	3	3
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6)	-	-
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective (Sec. 7)	1	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Amount of unsound food dealt with during the year -

Meat	32 lbs.
Pre-packed frozen foods	120 lbs.

RODENT CONTROL

East and West Wight

490 premises were treated during the year, the Rodent Operator making 1,400 visits. The annual testing and treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out and the spraying of refuse tips.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of Live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for Tuberculosis during the year 1969	158
Number of samples found to be negative	158
Number of samples found to be positive	-
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	-
Number of void samples	-